

What is claimed is:

1 1. A computer-implemented method of distributing image prints to a plurality of  
2 recipients, the method comprising:  
3 receiving an order specifying a plurality of recipients and, for each specified recipient, a  
4 set of one or more images associated with that recipient;  
5 for each of the plurality of recipients specified in the received order, printing at least one  
6 copy of each image in the recipient's image set; and  
7 distributing the printed image copies to their respective associated recipients.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein images in a first recipient's image set differ from  
2 images in a second recipient's image set.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein print parameters of a first recipient's image set differ  
2 from printing parameters of a second recipient's image set.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein print parameters differ among images within an image  
2 set.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein each image set comprises an arbitrary grouping of  
2 images designated by a user.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving, printing and distributing are performed by a  
2 single entity.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the performance of receiving, printing and distributing  
2 is dispersed among two or more different entities.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an order is performed by an enterprise  
2 providing a web front-end.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein printing or distributing, or both, are performed by a  
2 fulfillment enterprise different than the enterprise providing the web front-end.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein printing and distributing are integrated processes.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein printing and distributing are performed by a single  
2 entity.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein printing and distributing are performed by different  
2 entities.

1 15. The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to printing, dividing the received  
2 order into a plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order corresponding to a different recipient.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein printing comprises printing a set of one or more  
2 images in each sub-order.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein printing comprises, for each sub-order, printing a  
2 run of prints associated with a specified recipient.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising printing a destination identifier that  
2 identifies the specified recipient for a corresponding run of prints.

1           19. The method of claim 18 wherein the destination identifier delimits a corresponding  
2 sub-order.

1           20. The method of claim 18 wherein printing the destination identifier comprises printing  
2 one or more of the following items: a shipping address, a recipient's name, a thumbnail image  
3 index, a bar code, a textual message and/or print re-ordering information.

1           21. The method of claim 18 wherein a first image in a sub-order has one or more print  
2 parameters that differ from one or more print parameters of a second image in the sub-order.

1           22. The method of claim 21 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1           23. The method of claim 15 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of sub-  
2 orders comprises, for each image in the received order, instantiating a copy of the image for each  
3 recipient designated to receive a print of that image.

1           24. The method of claim 23 wherein an instantiated copy comprises a digital image file.

1           25. The method of claim 15 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of sub-  
2 orders is performed by a first entity and printing the sub-orders is performed by a second entity.

1           26. The method of claim 25 wherein the first entity comprises a photo-finishing  
2 enterprise.

1           27. The method of claim 25 wherein the second entity comprises a goods / service  
2 provider enterprise.

1           28. The method of claim 25 wherein the second entity comprises a supermarket, a  
2 drugstore, a post office, or an online grocer.

1           29. The method of claim 25 wherein distributing the printed image copies comprises  
2 delivering a recipient's printed image copies along with an unrelated order of goods / services  
3 associated with that recipient.

1           30. The method of claim 1 wherein a recipient comprises an individual.

1           31. The method of claim 1 wherein a recipient comprises a business entity.

1           32. The method of claim 1 wherein a recipient comprises an address.

1           33. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of recipients comprises an individual, an  
2 address, a business entity, or any combination thereof.

1           34. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the specified recipients is different  
2 from a user from whom the order was received.

1           35. The method of claim 1 wherein the order comprises a single transaction sequence.

1           36. The method of claim 35 wherein the single transaction sequence comprises a single  
2 charge to a financial instrument.

1           37. The method of claim 36 wherein the financial instrument comprises a credit card, a  
2 debit card, electronic funds transfer, a gift certificate, or a coupon.

1           38. The method of claim 35 wherein the single transaction sequence is terminated by a  
2 click of an "order" button.

1           39. A computer-implemented method of distributing physical manifestations of digital  
2 content to a plurality of recipients, the method comprising:  
3           receiving an order specifying a plurality of recipients and, for each specified recipient, a  
4 set of digital content associated with that recipient;  
5           for each of the plurality of recipients specified in the received order, generating a  
6 physical manifestation of the digital content in the recipient's digital content set; and  
7           distributing the physical manifestations to their respective associated recipients.

1           40. The method of claim 39 wherein a set of digital content comprises one or more digital  
2 images.

1           41. The method of claim 40 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises photographic prints of the one or more digital images.

1           42. The method of claim 39 wherein the physical manifestation of digital content  
2 comprises a framed photographic print of a digital image.

1           43. The method of claim 39 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises photo-album pages bearing one or more digital images.

1           44. The method of claim 39 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises compositions of digital images and other graphical and/or textual content.

1           45. The method of claim 40 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises an artifact bearing a digital image.

1           46. The method of claim 45 wherein the artifact bearing a digital image comprises a  
2 novelty item.

1 47. The method of claim 45 wherein the artifact bearing the digital image comprises a  
2 shirt, a coffee mug, a key-chain, a mouse pad, a magnet, or a deck of playing cards.

1 48. The method of claim 39 wherein a set of digital content comprises graphical and/or  
2 textual content.

1 49. The method of claim 48 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises cards bearing the graphical and/or textual content.

1 50. The method of claim 49 wherein the cards bearing the graphical and/or textual  
2 content comprise one or more of the following: greeting cards, holiday cards, announcements,  
3 playing cards, post cards, thank you cards, or invitations.

1 51. The method of claim 48 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises cards bearing the graphical and/or textual content.

1 52. The method of claim 48 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises advertisements bearing the graphical and/or textual content.

1 53. The method of claim 48 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises coupons bearing the graphical and/or textual content.

1 54. The method of claim 48 wherein the physical manifestation of the set of digital  
2 content comprises a bound volume bearing the graphical and/or textual content.

1 55. The method of claim 54 wherein the bound volume comprises a photo-album.

1 56. The method of claim 54 wherein the bound volume comprises a travel book.

1           57. The method of claim 48 wherein the graphical and/or textual content comprises  
2 digital images and/or digitized content.

1           58. The method of claim 48 wherein the graphical and/or textual content comprises  
2 computer-generated content.

1           59. A computer-implemented method of distributing photographic prints to a plurality of  
2 recipients, the method comprising:

3           (a) receiving an order specifying:

4               (i) a plurality of recipients;

5               (ii) for each specified recipient, a set of one or more digital images associated  
6 with that recipient; and

7               (iii) for each digital image, a set of one or more print parameters;

8           (b) dividing the received order into a plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order  
9 corresponding to a different specified recipient, each sub-order comprising an instance of each  
10 digital image associated with the recipient corresponding to the sub-order;

11           (c) printing the instantiated digital images in each of the sub-orders according to the print  
12 parameters associated with each image; and

13           (d) distributing the prints to their respective associated recipients.

1           60. The method of claim 59 wherein receiving an order comprises receiving interactive  
2 input from a user of a computer system.

1           61. The method of claim 60 wherein the computer system comprises the user's personal  
2 computer system.

1           62. The method of claim 60 wherein the computer system comprises a public entry  
2 terminal.

1           63. The method of claim 59 wherein the print parameters include one or more of print  
2 size, number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1           64. The method of claim 59 wherein printing and distributing are integrated processes.

1           65. The method of claim 59 wherein receiving, dividing, printing and distributing are  
2 performed by a single entity.

1           66. The method of claim 59 wherein the performance of receiving, dividing, printing and  
2 distributing is dispersed among two or more different entities.

1           67. The method of claim 59 wherein receiving an order is performed by an enterprise  
2 providing a web front-end.

1           68. The method of claim 67 wherein one or more of dividing, printing and distributing  
2 are performed by a fulfillment enterprise different than the enterprise providing the web front-  
3 end.

1           69. The method of claim 59 wherein printing and distributing are performed by a single  
2 entity.

1           70. The method of claim 59 wherein printing and distributing are performed by different  
2 entities.

1           71. The method of claim 59 further comprising printing a destination identifier that  
2 identifies the specified recipient for a corresponding sub-order.



1           72. The method of claim 71 wherein the destination identifier delimits a corresponding  
2 sub-order.

1           73. The method of claim 71 wherein printing the destination identifier comprises printing  
2 one or more of the following items: a shipping address, a recipient's name, a thumbnail image  
3 index, a bar code, a textual message and/or print re-ordering information.

1           74. The method of claim 59 wherein a first image in a sub-order has print parameters that  
2 differ from print parameters of a second image in the sub-order.

1           75. The method of claim 59 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of sub-  
2 orders is performed by a first entity and printing the sub-orders is performed by a second entity.

1           76. The method of claim 75 wherein the first entity comprises a photo-finishing  
2 enterprise.

1           77. The method of claim 75 wherein the second entity comprises a goods / service  
2 provider enterprise.

1           78. The method of claim 77 wherein the second entity comprises a supermarket, a  
2 drugstore, a post office, or an online grocer.

1           79. The method of claim 59 wherein distributing the prints comprises delivering a  
2 recipient's prints along with an unrelated order of goods / services associated with that recipient

1           80. A print distribution system comprising:  
2 a front-end computer sub-system for receiving an order specifying a plurality of  
3 recipients and, for each specified recipient, a set of one or more images associated with that  
4 recipient;

5 a printing sub-system for printing at least one copy of each image in each recipient's  
6 image set; and

7 a distribution sub-system for distributing the printed image copies to their respective  
8 associated recipients.

1 81. The system of claim 80 wherein images in a first recipient's image set differ from  
2 images in a second recipient's image set.

1 82. The system of claim 80 wherein print parameters of a first recipient's image set differ  
2 from printing parameters of a second recipient's image set.

1 83. The system of claim 82 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1 84. The system of claim 80 wherein print parameters differ among images within an  
2 image set.

1 85. The system of claim 84 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1 86. The system of claim 80 wherein each image set comprises an arbitrary grouping of  
2 images designated by a user that placed the order.

1 87. The system of claim 80 wherein the front-end computer sub-system, the printing sub-  
2 system and the distribution sub-system are controlled by a single entity.

1 88. The system of claim 80 wherein the front-end computer sub-system, the printing sub-  
2 system, and the distribution sub-system are dispersed among two or more different entities.

1           89. The system of claim 80 wherein the front-end computer sub-system is controlled by  
2 an enterprise providing a web front-end.

1           90. The system of claim 89 wherein the printing sub-system or the distribution sub-  
2 system, or both, are controlled by a fulfillment enterprise different than the enterprise providing  
3 the web front-end.

1           91. The system of claim 80 wherein the printing sub-system and the distribution sub-  
2 system are integrated.

1           92. The system of claim 80 wherein the printing sub-system and the distribution sub-  
2 system are controlled by a same entity.

1           93. The system of claim 80 wherein the printing sub-system and the distribution sub-  
2 system are controlled by different entities.

1           94. The system of claim 80 wherein the printing sub-system comprises a sub-system for  
2 dividing the received order into a plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order corresponding to a  
3 different recipient.

1           95. The system of claim 94 wherein the printing sub-system prints a set of one or more  
2 images in each sub-order.

1           96. The system of claim 94 wherein, for each sub-order, the printing sub-system prints a  
2 run of prints associated with a specified recipient.

1           97. The system of claim 96 wherein the printing sub-system further prints a destination  
2 identifier that identifies the specified recipient for a corresponding run of prints.

1 98. The system of claim 97 wherein the destination identifier delimits a corresponding  
2 sub-order.

1 99. The system of claim 97 wherein printing the destination identifier comprises printing  
2 one or more of the following items: a shipping address, a recipient's name, a thumbnail image  
3 index, a bar code, a textual message and/or print re-ordering information.

1 100. The system of claim 94 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of sub-  
2 orders comprises, for each image in the received order, instantiating a copy of the image for each  
3 recipient designated to receive a print of that image.

1 101. The system of claim 100 wherein an instantiated copy comprises a digital image file.

1 102. The system of claim 94 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of sub-  
2 orders is performed by a first entity and printing the sub-orders is performed by a second entity.

1 103. The system of claim 102 wherein the first entity comprises a photo-finishing  
2 enterprise.

1 104. The system of claim 102 wherein the second entity comprises a goods / service  
2 provider enterprise.

1 105. The system of claim 104 wherein the second entity comprises a supermarket, a  
2 drugstore, a post office, or an online grocer.

1 106. The system of claim 104 wherein distributing the printed image copies comprises  
2 delivering a recipient's printed image copies along with an unrelated order of goods / services  
3 associated with that recipient.

1 107. The system of claim 80 wherein a recipient comprises an individual.

1 108. The system of claim 80 wherein a recipient comprises a business entity.

1 109. The system of claim 80 wherein a recipient comprises an address.

1 110. The system of claim 80 wherein the plurality of recipients comprises an individual,  
2 an address, a business entity, or any combination thereof.

1 111. The system of claim 80 wherein at least one of the specified recipients is different  
2 from a user from whom the order was received.

1 112. The system of claim 80 wherein the order received by the front-end computer  
2 system comprises a single transaction sequence.

1 113. The system of claim 112 wherein the single transaction sequence comprises a single  
2 charge to a financial instrument.

1 114. The system of claim 113 wherein the financial instrument comprises a credit card, a  
2 debit card, electronic funds transfer, a gift certificate, or a coupon.

1 115. The system of claim 112 wherein the single transaction sequence is terminated by a  
2 click of an "order" button

1 116. A computer-implemented method of distributing image prints to a plurality of  
2 recipients, the method comprising:

3 receiving, at a facility corresponding to a first entity, an order specifying a plurality of  
4 recipients and, for each specified recipient, a set of one or more images associated with that  
5 recipient;

6 communicating the received order to a facility corresponding to a second entity;  
7 at the second entity's facility, for each of the plurality of recipients specified in the  
8 received order, printing at least one copy of each image in the recipient's image set; and  
9 distributing the printed image copies to their respective associated recipients.

1 117. The method of claim 116 wherein the first entity comprises a photo-finishing  
2 enterprise.

1 118. The method of claim 116 wherein the second entity comprises a goods / service  
2 provider enterprise.

1 119. The method of claim 118 wherein the second entity comprises a supermarket, a  
2 drugstore, a post office, or an online grocer.

1 120. The method of claim 118 wherein distributing the printed image copies comprises  
2 delivering a recipient's printed image copies along with an unrelated order of goods / services  
3 associated with that recipient.

1 121. The method of claim 116 wherein, prior to communicating the received order to the  
2 facility corresponding to the second entity, the first entity divides the received order into a  
3 plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order corresponding to a different recipient.

1 122. The method of claim 121 wherein printing comprises printing a set of one or more  
2 images in each sub-order.

1 123. The method of claim 121 wherein printing comprises, for each sub-order, printing a  
2 run of prints associated with a specified recipient.

1           124. The method of claim 123 further comprising printing a destination identifier that  
2 identifies the specified recipient for a corresponding run of prints.

1           125. The method of claim 124 wherein the destination identifier delimits a corresponding  
2 sub-order.

1           126. The method of claim 124 wherein printing the destination identifier comprises  
2 printing one or more of the following items: a shipping address, a recipient's name, a thumbnail  
3 image index, a bar code, a textual message and/or print re-ordering information.

1           127. A computer-implemented method of distributing image prints to a plurality of  
2 recipients, the method comprising:

3           receiving an order from a user at a public entry terminal, the order specifying a plurality  
4 of recipients and, for each specified recipient, a set of one or more images associated with that  
5 recipient;

6           transmitting the received order from the public entry terminal to a photo-finishing  
7 facility;

8           for each of the plurality of recipients specified in the received order, printing at the photo-  
9 finishing facility at least one copy of each image in the recipient's image set; and

10          distributing the printed image copies to their respective associated recipients.

1           128. The method of claim 127 wherein receiving the order from the user at the public  
2 entry terminal comprises reading digital images from a computer-readable medium provided to  
3 the public-entry terminal.

1           129. The method of claim 128 wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a  
2 FLASH memory, a CD-ROM or a diskette.

1           130. The method of claim 127 wherein receiving the order from the user at the public  
2 entry terminal comprises receiving manual input specifying the plurality of recipients and the set  
3 of one or more images associated with each recipient.

1           131. The method of claim 127 wherein the public entry terminal comprises a digital drop  
2 box, a point-of-sale station, or a kiosk.

1           132. A computer-implemented method of ordering image prints for a plurality of  
2 recipients, the method comprising receiving at a host system an order from a client system, the  
3 order corresponding to a single transaction sequence and specifying a plurality of recipients and,  
4 for each specified recipient, a set of one or more images associated with that recipient.

1           133. The method of claim 132 further comprising, at the host system, dividing the  
2 received order into a plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order corresponding to a different  
3 recipient.

1           134. The method of claim 133 further comprising printing a set of one or more images in  
2 each sub-order.

1           135. The method of claim 133 wherein further comprising, for each sub-order, printing a  
2 run of prints associated with a specified recipient.

1           136. The method of claim 135 further comprising printing a destination identifier that  
2 identifies the specified recipient for a corresponding run of prints.

1           137. The method of claim 136 wherein the destination identifier delimits a corresponding  
2 sub-order.



1           138. The method of claim 136 wherein printing the destination identifier comprises  
2 printing one or more of the following items: a shipping address, a recipient's name, a thumbnail  
3 image index, a bar code, a textual message and/or print re-ordering information.

1           139. The method of claim 133 wherein a first image in a sub-order has print parameters  
2 that differ from print parameters of a second image in the sub-order.

1           140. The method of claim 139 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1           141. The method of claim 133 wherein dividing the received order into the plurality of  
2 sub-orders comprises, for each image in the received order, instantiating a copy of the image for  
3 each recipient designated to receive a print of that image.

1           142. The method of claim 141 wherein an instantiated copy comprises a digital image  
2 file.

1           143. The method of claim 132 wherein images in a first recipient's image set differ from  
2 images in a second recipient's image set.

1           144. The method of claim 132 wherein print parameters of a first recipient's image set  
2 differ from printing parameters of a second recipient's image set.

1           145. The method of claim 144 wherein print parameters include one or more of print size,  
2 number of copies, print finish, and/or a textual message.

1           146. The method of claim 132 wherein print parameters differ among images within an  
2 image set.

1           147. A computer-implemented method of processing an order for a physical  
2 manifestation of digital content, the method comprising:  
3           receiving an order specifying a plurality of recipients and, for each specified recipient, a  
4 set of digital content associated with that recipient;  
5           dividing the received order into a plurality of sub-orders, each sub-order corresponding to  
6 a different recipient, by instantiating a digital copy of the digital content for each recipient  
7 designated to receive a physical manifestation of that digital content; and  
8           generating a physical manifestation of the digital content in the recipient's digital content  
9 set.

1           148. The method of claim 147 wherein the digital content comprises a digital image and  
2 the physical manifestation comprises a photographic print of the digital image.

1           149. The method of claim 147 further comprising distributing the physical manifestations  
2 to their respective associated recipients.

1           150. The method of claim 147 wherein the receiving and dividing are performed by a first  
2 entity and the generating is performed by a second entity.

1           151. The method of claim 150 wherein the first entity comprises a photo-finishing  
2 enterprise and the second entity comprises a goods / service-provider enterprise.

1           152. The method of claim 147 wherein receiving, dividing and generating are performed  
2 by a single entity.

1           153. The method of claim 147 wherein the performance of receiving, dividing and  
2 generating is dispersed among two or more different entities.

1           154. The method of claim 147 wherein receiving an order is performed by an enterprise  
2     providing a web front-end.

1           155. The method of claim 154 wherein dividing or generating, or both, are performed by  
2     a fulfillment enterprise different than the enterprise providing the web front-end.

11087-004001